

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 166887 TOSEC 070022

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 166887 TOSEC 070022

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 4508 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 15 JUL
QUOTE:

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 4508

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, US IS

SUBJ: RABIN ON HAWK MISSILES TO JORDAN

1. I MADE MY COURTESY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER RABIN TODAY.
IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION ABOUT US MIDDLE EAST POLICY, RABIN
SEIZED OPPORTUNITY TO LASH OUT AT REPORTED US PLANS TO SELL JORDAN
14 BATTERIES OF HAWK MISSILES MUCH MORE VIGOURESLY THAN HE DID
IN BONN. HE SAID GOI HAD BEEN SOLEMNLY ASSURED WEEKS AGO
THAT ONLY THREE BATTERIES WERE TO BE SOLD. GOI HAD NOT LIKED
THIS DECISION EITHER ON ITS MERITS OR IN THE WAY IT WAS
REACHED BUT COULD LIVE WITH IT SINCE IT DID NOT CHANGE THE
STRATEGIC POSITION OF JORDAN. 14 BATTERIES WAS ANOTHER MATTER

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AND ASSURED A PSYCHOLOGICAL REACTION IN JORDAN VIRTUALLY

GUARANTEED PARTICIPATION IN ANOTHER WAR. THE NEWS OF USG PLANS TO SELL 14 BATTERIES HAS COME AS A BOMBSHELL WHICH COULD HAVE ADVERSE BEARING ON KNESSET CONSIDERATION OF AN INTERIM AGREEMENT.

2. RABIN SAID HE COULDN'T COMPREHEND SUCH A DECISION. US OFFICIALS HAD COMPLAINED THAT GOI HAD " MISLED" US IN NEGOTIATIONS. NOW IT SEEMED ISRAEL HAD BEEN MISLED. KNESSET OPPOSITION, RABIN SAID, WOULD HAVE FIELD DAY CRITICIZING GOVT IN DEBATE (SCHEDULED) FOR JULY 16) ON ADVISABILITY OF ACHIEVING AN INTERIM AGREEMENT, AND HE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULT TIME DEMONSTRATING US WORD COULD BE TRUSTED.

3. COMMENT: RABIN WAS VERY ANGRY ABOUT US ACTION ON HAWK SALES AND WANTED ME TO KNOW IT. HE CLEARLY BELIEVES THAT OPPOSITION HAS BEEN GIVEN A BLUDGEON TO HAMMER HIM ON INTERIM AGREEMENT. IF RABIN IS LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO BACK AWAY FROM AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT ABOUT WHICH YOU KNOW HE HASHAD DOUBTS, HE MAY BELIEVE ONE HAS BEEN PROVIDED. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ME LOCALLY IF YOU COULD LET ME KNOW SOONEST HOW YOU INTEND TO HANDLE THIS PROBLEM, IF ONLY COSMETICALLY.
TOON
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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